share of export in the international market was 0.6% in 1997. The policy of import substitution followed prior to liberalisation was largely responsible for this low share.

(c) Export performance is influenced *inter-alia* by international market conditions supporing infrastructure facilities, credit availability and policy framework. The Government is taking all necessary steps to see that there is a steady increase in the growth of exports. Export promption, is a continuous process and measures are being taken based on interaction with trade, industry and export promotion orgnisations.

Trade Between India and Erstwhile U.S.S.R.

468. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual trade between India and the erstwhile Soviet, Union, before its disintegration;

(b) the value of trade between India and the countries of erst-while Soviet Union during 1996-97;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been decline in the trade;

(d) if so, the main Items in which the decline in trade has occurred; and

(e) the steps taken to increase trade between India and these countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The value of trade between India and erstwhile Soviet Union during 1990-91 was Rs. 7803 crores,.

(b)The value of trade between India and CIS and Baltic cc-untries during 1996-97 was Rs. 5829 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, there was a. decline in trade with the countries of erstwhile Soviet Union during 1996-97 as compared to the trade with Soviet Union before Its disintegration. The main items in which the decline in trade has occurred include tea, coffee, cashew, cosmetics and toiletries, chemicals, pulp and waste paper, cotton raw and waste, fertilizers manufactured, iron and steel, etc.'

(e) The Government has initiated several measures for boosting Indo-CIS trada. These measures include regular review of trade between India and the countries of this region through meetings of Joint Commission, Working Croups and Joint business councils, encouraging consignment sales and opening of warehouses; broad-basing the basket of tradable goods, signing of agreements, opening of India banks, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions and exchange of delegations.

Software Exports to Japan

469, SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of the software exports to Japan during the years 1994-95,1995-96,1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) whether there is any steady increase in the volume of exports to Japan during these four years; and

(c) what further steps are being contemplated to continue this trend so as to increase the software exports not only to Japan but also to the entire South East Asian Markets?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEQDB): (a) The total value of software ex.ptvts to Japan during the last 4 years, has been as under.-

Year	Rs. in Cr.
1994-95	46
1995-96	53
1996-97	109
1997-98	185 (estimated)

(b) Yes, Sir. There has been a steady increase in the value of exports to Japan during the last 4 years. The growth over the previous years has been as under:-

Year	%Growth
1994-95	76.9
1995-96	15.2
1996-97	105.6
1997-98	69.7

(c) The Council has undertaken varioui promotional activities to boost export to Soutl